

A Pelandok Tale.*

The story is told that once on a time in the olden days the king of a certain country was out hunting, he had been out many days and had got nothing. Owing to the noise that was made by all his followers all the animals had run right away. A certain pelandok was also running away. While he was busy running along glancing to the right and to the left, he came to a certain place where there was a pond, into which he fell. He swam to the west and he swam to the east looking for a place to get up but he could not find one. While he was in this fix an elephant passed. Now at that time of day there happened to be a very big storm indeed with thunder booming and lightning crackling hither and thither. When the pelandok saw the elephant, he said to him, "Ho Ka Sang Gajah, are you not afraid that the sky will fall in? Just listen to the noise, rum rum."

The elephant said, "If the sky is really going to tumble in, I am afraid it may hit me, and if it hits me I shall die."

The elephant then said, "What are you doing down there in that very deep well?"

The pelandok replied, "Oh I have two reasons for being in this well. First I ran away from this sky that is going to fall in, then secondly I saw very rare game in this well which has never been seen by my grand-fathers, great-grand-fathers, great-great-grand-fathers or great-great-great-grand-fathers, who were before me."

The elephant then said, "If that is really so, may I also come in and get away from this sky that is on the point of falling in? May I too see this game?"

The pelandok said, "If you are frightened and if you want to see this game, come along."

* This tale is by Penghulu Mohamed Noordin bin Jaffar of Kota Stia, Lower Perak. The source is unknown.

So the elephant tumbled right down into the well. After that a tiger came along, on whom the same trick was played. And then a rhinoceros on whom the same trick was played. And then a deer on whom the same trick was played. And then a wild pig on whom the same trick was played. When they were all inside the well, the pelandok said, "Hei, I fooled you that time."

When the tiger heard what the pelandok said he (the tiger) said, "Very good, Salam di Rimba, if ever I get out of this well, I will eat you."

While he was saying this the pelandok took a piece of wood and began to tease the elephant. The elephant said, "Stop that, or I shall kick you." But the pelandok paid no attention and went on teasing. At last the elephant kicked him right up on to the ground outside, saying, "Now you are sure to be killed when struck by the sky."

The pelandok said, "Oh that was merely my cunning. I wanted to get out and could not, so I said the sky would fall in."

Just then the tiger scrambled up to the edge and got away into the jungle, saying as he went "If ever I catch you, I'll eat you."

After that the pelandok went to some people and said, "Hoo ee . . . gentles and lords, in that well there, there are many beasts. Elephants, rhinoceroses, pigs and deer have fallen into it. You can go and take them."

After that he went on his way. The tiger also went on his, looking for the pelandok, but the pelandok kept on moving. After two or three days the pelandok came across a very large hornets' nest. Indeed the noise of the hornets could be heard about twenty yards away. He walked on very slowly carrying a leaf with him, and then he sat down near the hornets' nest which he gently fanned. A short time after he was so seated the tiger came along and said to him, "This time I really will eat you, Salam di Rimba."

The pelandok said, "Don't talk of eating me when I have had orders from King Solomon to take care of his gong."

The tiger said, "Is that really King Solomon's gong that you are looking after?"

The pelandok answered, "Are you deaf? Listen carefully. Does not it sound by itself? When it is struck its sound is wonderfully sweet. So delicious is it that perhaps if you were to hear it you could neither eat nor sleep."

The tiger said, "Hei Salam di Rimba, may I try and strike it? I am very anxious to listen to the sound."

The pelandok answered, "Ka Sang Rimau, you are speaking like a madman. You are speaking as if it were my own. Still I don't know. If you very much want to hear it I will go and tell King Solomon. If he allows it, you may strike. But mind you strike it when I say you may, and not before."

The tiger replied, "Very well." So the pelandok rushed away. When he got some way off he said, "Ho Ka Sang Rimau, King Solomon commands you to strike." When the tiger heard that he struck it with his paw. The hornets stung him all over his body. The tiger ran here and there in very great pain. He threw his whole soul into his running.

The tiger said, "Very good. I have not got hold of you yet: but if ever I do meet you, there is not the slightest doubt that I will eat you."

After that the pelandok walked on very hungry and looking for some food. Two or three days later he came across a very large and extremely handsomely striped python. Its coils were just like a very handsomely striped cloth. The pelandok sat down by it. The tiger walked on in a rage looking for the pelandok. At last he met him and said to him, "This time your doom has overtaken you, Salam di Rimba."

The pelandok said, "Don't keep on talking of dooms. Look first. What is this? Do you know its name?"

The tiger went close to look at the python and said, "Hei Salam di Rimba, what is this called?"

The pelandok replied, "This is what I have been ordered by my lord King Solomon to take care of. It is called King Solomon's waist-cloth. This handsome cloth descended to him from his ancestors. Its great charm lies in the fact that it prevents one from dying. If it is worn for an hour, you are not likely to die for at least a year after that."

The tiger thought, perhaps what he says is true, so he said "Hei Salam di Rimba let me put it on for an hour, for I am not very well able to search after my food."

Then Salam di Rimba replied, "Hei Ka Sang Rimau, just reflect a moment. Is it right? I nor my ancestors have never seen a cloth like this, let alone possessed one. This is King Solomon's own and I have been ordered by him to take care of it. Still if you are really want to try it, wait a bit till I first go and lay your request before King Solomon."

The tiger said, "Make haste Salam di Rimba. for I am very hungry."

So the pelandok rushed off swiftly. A little later he called out from a distance. "Ho Ka Sang Rimau, put it on, put it on."

So the tiger took the python's head and put it round his waist. The snake gave him a terrific squeeze and the tiger jumped here and there like a stuck fowl, half dead, struggling to escape from the snake's coils. At last he managed to get free. He was till more incensed against the pelandok. He went on his way looking out for some food, and peering here and there for the pelandok. The pelandok also went away from that place. At last about five or six days after, he met the tiger. The tiger said, "This very day your doom has newly overtaken you Salam di Rimba."

The pelandok answered, "What is to be done? Still I would like to ask you one thing."

The tiger said, "What do you want to ask?"

The pelandok said, "If you want to eat me please swallow me whole without crunching me. If you crunch me up I will live, but if you swallow me, I will die. Then too you must swallow me head foremost. If you swallow me tail first I will live, but if head first I will die."

The tiger said, "Very well." Thereafter he swallowed the pelandok whole, head first. After he had been swallowed, the pelandok worked its way through the tiger's stomach and proceeded to stick his head out of the tiger's fundament. The tiger rejoiced greatly at having disposed of the pelandok and went on seeking for his food. He came across a pig. He crouched down to wait for it. The pelandok knew that the tiger was lurking for that pig so he called out, "Ho, pig, pig, pig, run away. This tiger is going to spring on you."

When the pig heard that he ran away. The tiger said, "Curse this fundament of mine. It is making a noise every day. It never used to do that."

So he searched for a tree stump and rubbed himself against it till his back was all bloody. In fact after the tiger swallowed the pelandok he never got a thing to eat and so he became very hungry. When he had been several days without food, and was ravenously hungry, the tiger went after a man who was making a clearing in the jungle, and lay in wait to catch him. The pelandok knew that the tiger wanted to catch the man who was busy in the clearing so he called out, "Ho you there in the clearing, run away, the tiger wants to catch you."

When the man heard a voice like that he ran off. The tiger was very astonished that his hindquarters should speak like that. He was very angry indeed with his back. So he scratched himself against every tree until he was covered with blood. Finally his back became flyblown and covered with a great many large maggots. Also he became unable to walk owing to the length of time that he had been unable to get anything to eat. At last he died. The pelandok also was very hungry, for for a long time he too had had no food. He was tremendously thirsty. So he got out and went hither and

thither but could get nothing to eat or drink. At last he got to a river where he had a drink. He noticed on the other bank fruit which he could eat. Then he looked carefully for a minute and thought, "How am I to get across? I don't think I am able, for I am very weak."

Then he had an inspiration, "I had better call sisters Sang Garagi, and say that they have all been ordered by King Solomon to come to the top of the water and that I have been ordered to take a census of all that are in the river."

After that all the crocodiles that were in that river came to the top of the water. The pelandok said, "Elder sisters Sang Garagi, arrange yourselves properly please, head to head so that I can count you easily."

The crocodiles then arranged themselves from one side of the river right across to the other bank. After that the pelandok jumped on to the heads of the crocodiles counting, "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten," and so on till he got across. When he reached it he jumped up on to the dry ground and said, "Hei, that was my cunning. I wanted to get across and could not, so I told you of King Solomon's order."

Then he had his meal. The crocodile said, "You had better not come here to drink, we will catch you and then only will be satisfied."

Some days after, what with his walking and his looking for his food, the pelandok became very thirsty and went to the river bank to drink. A crocodile came and caught him by the foot. The pelandok said, "Do you think that you have caught my foot? Is it not a twig that you have caught?"

The crocodile thought, "Perhaps that is so, for I do not feel any flesh and it tastes just like a piece of wood."

So the crocodile let go and the pelandok sprang up the bank and said, "Hei, that was only my cunning. You really had my foot, but I said that it was a branch."

After that the pelandok went on to the sea side to a place where some men lived who had fishing stakes. When he got near he heard the men in the fishing village making a commotion because the whole of their fish disappeared, being eaten up every day by some animal. The pelandok thought what can this be that eats all the men's fish. So one day when all the men had gone to sea he crept below a house in the village. He had lain there only a minute when a giant came along, and quite devoured all of the fish in the village. The pelandok thought, "It seems that it is this evil giant that is devouring all these men's fish."

Then he said, "Good, to-morrow I will give him some medicine."

After that all the men came back from the sea to the village and saw that their fish were again finished. They said, "Who is it that devours our fish? if we only knew we would kill him."

After that the next day the men once more went away to sea, and the pelandok came into the village and looked round for a piece of rotan with which to make a running noose. While he was busy fixing the loop the giant came along to eat the fish and found the pelandok busy making the knot. The giant said, "Hei Salam di Rimba, what are you doing there?"

The pelandok replied, "Two things only, first to increase the deadliness of my eye teeth and second to make a medicine for all stiffnesses of joints or bones."

A little later the pelandok said, "Granpa, I want to sleep a little. Don't disturb me."—"Very well."—"When my eyes wink that is a sign that I am asleep."—"When my eyes are closed that is a sign that I am asleep."

The pelandok then threw himself down and closed his eyes. The giant thought perhaps in a little he will wink. The giant saw the pelandok's eyes wink, so he thought that he really was asleep. The giant then touched the pelandok's eye teeth saying, "Is this, this very deadly thing? It ought not to be so judging from its size."

After this the pelandok got up from his sleep and the giant said, "Hei Salam di Rimba, I want to sleep now."

The giant really went to sleep, so the pelandok took some hot ashes and put them on the giant's paw, while he himself sat down a little way off. After that the giant began to hop about owing to his burnt hand. The pelandok pretended to be alarmed and said, "What has happened granpa to make you jump like that? What is the matter?" "My hand got so tremendously hot that I started from my sleep." "Perhaps granpa, you interfered with my eye teeth when I was asleep just now." "That is true, I did just touch them." "That is the deadly poison of my eye teeth, I told you not to touch them. And now your body suffers, granpa."

The giant became rather frightened because of Salam di Rimba and his many pieces of magic. The pelandok then began to make a knot. The giant said, "What are you doing Salam di Rimba?" "I want to make some medicine for all the illnesses of the joints and bones and all tiredness and all pains in any part of the body."

The giant thought, that is true because he knows a great deal of magic. So he said, "Salam di Rimba, I am in pain, can you give me this medicine?" "If granpa asks help, his grandchild will be glad to give assistance." "Apply it."

So the pelandok took a loop and passed it round both his knees and his elbows and struck the knot till it was quite tight. Then he said, "How are you, granpa? Try and move a little. Can you or not?" "I can't move the least little bit." "Wait a little longer and all your illnesses will quite disappear, "I am going to look for the leaf of the perambas in the forest and also some water from a knot of a tree." "Be quick. If you are late the owners of the house will all return."

The pelandok went off into the jungle and never came back. A little later the men came back from the sea and found the giant trussed up in the house with all his joints securely tied. They said, "This is what has been eating our fish all this time." So they beat and stabbed the giant till he died.

The pelandok went on looking for his food up stream and down stream. At last he met a man who was busy hollowing out a sampan. The pelandok said, "Perhaps you may make a boat: perhaps you may not." The man paid close attention to what the pelandok was saying and understood that the pelandok was making fun of him. So he took a shaving and threw it at the pelandok and hit him on the rump, where it broke. After that the pelandok went back to find his wife. When he reached her he said, "Hooee, hooee, this time probably we shall be divorced." His wife replied, "Why do you say that?" Her husband said, "I have been hit by that man, who is making a boat with a shaving. This is it on my rump."

After that in about ten days he died and left his wife who was with child. And that is why to this day every pelandok has a white chip on his rump.

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Alkēsah maka adalah pada zaman dahulu kala kapada satu hari raja didalam satu nēgēri itu, pērgilah ia bērburu maka bē-bērapa hari sa'ekor pun tiada dapat. Maka dēngan sēbab bhana bunyi orang raja bērburu itu, maka sēkalian binatang habis sēmuanya bērkalarian. Maka adalah sa'ekor pēlandok lari juga ia. Didalam ia tēngah bērlarian itu, matanya mēmandang ka-kiri, dan ka-kanan, maka tiba-tiba sampailah ia kapada satu kolam, maka jatohlah ia ka-dalam kolam itu. Dan bērnang-lah ia ka-barat, dan ka-timor, mēnchari tēmpat hēndak naik ka-atas, tiadalah dapat ia hēndak naik. Kēmudian didalam antara itu, lalu sa'ekor gajah. Dan waktu itu hari pun tērlalu besar ribut sērta halalintar, dan kilat sabong mēnyabong sahaja.

Kemudian di-tengok oleh pelandok itu gajah, maka kata pelandok, "Hei Ka Sang Gajah tiadakah Ka Sang Gajah takut itu langit hendak runtoḥ, rum ram sahaja bunyinya itu." Maka jawab gajah, "Jikalau betul langit hendak runtoḥ tentu aku di-timpanya, maka apabila di-timpanya tentu aku mati." Maka kata gajah, "Apa Salam di Rimba buat didalam telaga yang sangat dalam itu?" Maka jawab Salam di Rimba, "Dua perkara maksud aku didalam telaga ini. Pertamanya aku lari daripada langit hendak runtoḥ itu. Kaduanya aku melihat permainan yang sangat indah didalam telaga ini, yang belum pernah di-lihat oleh datoh nenek moyang munit aku dahulu." Maka kata gajah, "Jika betul begitu bolehlah aku, Salam di Rimba, menumpang lari daripada langit hendak runtoḥ serta menengok permainan itu?" Maka jawab pelandok, "Jika takut, dan hendak menengok permainan marilah bersama-sama kita." Kemudian gajah ini pun terjuallah kadalam telaga itu.

Kemudian lalu pula harimau demikian juga. Kemudian lalu pula rusa demikian juga. Kemudian lalu pula babi demikian juga. Maka telah habislah kadalam telaga itu, maka kata pelandok, "Hei kechek aku sahaja." Maka telah mendengarlah harimau itu akan perkataan pelandok demikian itu, maka kata harimau, "Baiklah kamu Salam di Rimba, jikalau aku lepas daripada telaga ini tentu akulah makan juga kamu." Kemudian didalam antara itu di-ambil oleh pelandok satu kerat kayu di-petiknya buah pelir gajah itu maka kata gajah, "Jangan di-petik buah pelir aku itu, kamu aku sepakkan sekarang." Maka tiadalah di-fedulikan oleh pelandok itu, dan petiknya juga buah pelir gajah itu. Kemudian di-sepakkannya gajah pelandok itu lepas-lah ia ka-darat serta kata gajah itu, "Mampuslah kamu di-timpa langit." Maka kata pelandok, "Hei akal aku sahaja. Hendak naik aku tiada lalu, aku katakan langit hendak runtoḥ." Maka didalam hal yang demikian itu, ini harimau ia panjat tepi telaga itu, lepas-lah juga ia ka-darat maka kata harimau itu, "Baiklah masihkan aku tiada berjumpa dengan kamu aku hendak makan juga." Kemudian ini pelandok pun pergilah ia pada orang serta ia khabar, katanya, "Huee inche, inche, tuan, tuan itu, didalam telaga itu, banyak-banyak binatang sudah jatoh, gajah, badak, babi, rusa ada disitu, boleh pergi ambil." Habis itu ia

lalu berjalan. Maka harimau itu berjalan ia hendak menchari pelandok itu, dan pelandok itu berjalan juga.

Kemudian didalam antara dua tiga hari berjumpa pula ia dengan satu sarang tabuan yang amat besar, kira-kira sapuloh depa jauhnya bunyi tabuan itu. Maka berjalanlah ia perlahan-lahan serta di-bawanya satu halei daun kayu, lalu dudok dia dekat dengan sarang tabuan itu di-kirap-kirapnya itu sarang tabuan. Kemudian tiada berapa lamanya ia dudok di-tēpi datanglah harimau kepadanya serta kata harimau itu, "Ini sakali tēntulah kamu Salam di Rimba aku makan." Maka kata pelandok itu, "Jangan termakan-makan; aku ini di-surohkan oleh raja Suleyman menunggu gongnya." Maka kata harimau, "Yakah gong raja Suleyman yang kamu tunggu itu?" Maka jawab pelandok, "Pekakkah telinga angkau? Ka Sang Harimau, choba dengar baik-baik. Bukankah ia berbunyi sendiri sahaja? ini jikalau di-pukol terlalu merdu bunyinya. Barangkali Ka Sang Harimau tiada lalu makan dan tidor kerana lazzat bunyi gong ini." Kemudian kata harimau, "Hei Salam di Rimba bolehkah aku hendak merasa memukolnya? Sangat aku hendak mendengar bunyinya." Maka jawab pelandok, "Ka Sang Harimau ini seperti orang gila pula bunyi chakapnya. Itu seperti kita punya sendiri pula rupanya. Entah, jikalau sangat hendak Ka Sang Harimau mendengarnya, bolehlah aku maalmukan pada raja Suleyman. Jika ia benarkan boleh Ka Sang Harimau pukol. Maka apabila aku kata pukollah baharulah Ka Sang Harimau pukol." Maka jawab harimau, "Baiklah." Maka pelandok pun berhambatlah ia pergi, serta sampai-lah ia sudah jauh katanya, "Ho Ka Sang Harimau, titah raja Suleyman pukol-lah." Kemudian di-dengar oleh harimau ini, maka ia pukol dengan tangannya. Maka sekalian tabuan itu pun menggigit sekalian badan harimau ini. Maka ia berlari-larilah ia dengan kasakitannya amat sangat dengan sa-habis ujud ia berlari-lari itu. Maka katanya harimau, "Baiklah masih aku tiada berjumpa, jika aku berjumpa tēntulah aku makan juga dengan tiada boleh tidak."

Kemudian ini pelandok pun berjalanlah ia dengan kalaparan menchari makanan. Maka antara dua tiga hari berjumpalah ia dengan sa-ekor ular sawah yang amat besar, yang amat elok

rupa belang kulitnya, sa-umpama kain chindai rupanya, berlingkar-lingkar. Maka dudok ia pelandok dekat lingkar sawah itu. Dan harimau pun berjalanlah ia dengan marahnya akan pelandok itu. Maka didalam hal demikian berjumpalah dengan itu pelandok. Maka kata harimau, "Sa-kali ini sampailah hukum angkau, Salam di Rimba." Maka kata pelandok, "Jangan tebhukum-hukum sahaja. Tengok dahulu, ini apa adakah, Ka Sang Harimau tahu apa namanya?" Maka dekatlah harimau menengoklah sawa. Maka kata harimau, "Hei Salam di Rimba, apa namanya ini?" Maka jawab Salam di Rimba, "Inilah aku disuruhkan oleh tuanku raja Suleyman menunggunya, namanya ikat bengkong raja Suleyman, ia itu kain chindai daripada datoh neneknya dahulu-dahulu. Satu orang punya tiada boleh mangkatkan faidahnya, jika satu jam kira-kira salama-lama satu tahun. Kemudian fikir harimau, "Itu betul juga barang-kali." Kata harimau, "Hei Salam di Rimba berilah aku merasa didalam satu jam sahaja jadi, kerana aku tiada lalu sangat menchari makan ini." Kemudian jawab Salam di Rimba "Hei Ka Sang Harimau choba-lah fikir, adakah layak? Aku punya barang sa-macam ini daripada datoh nenek aku pun tiada pernah melihatnya, jangan menaruh-nya sa-macam ini. Maka kain ini tuanku raja Suleyman punya. Dan aku ditahkannya menunggunya sahaja. Jika Ka Sang Harimau hendak merasanya, nantilah aku sembahkan pada tuanku raja Suleyman dahulu." Maka kata harimau, "Pergilah Salam di Rimba lëkas-lëkas, aku ini terlalulah laparnya." Maka pergilah pelandok kejar yang amat deras. Kemudian sa-buntar lagi kata pelandok dari jauh, "Ho Ka Sang Harimau ikatlah, ikatlah." Maka di-ambil oleh harimau itu kepala sawah itu, di-ikatkannya pada pinggangnya. Maka di-jerut oleh sawah itu pinggang harimau sa-bagi jerut yang amat kuat, maka menggluparlah harimau berbambat kasana ka-mari, hendak melepaskan diri dari jerut sawah itu, sa-paroh mati. Dengan kalamaannya terlepaslah daripada sawah itu. Maka makin bertambahlah marah harimau itu akan pelandok itu. Maka berjalanlah harimau ini menchari makannya serta mengintai-intai pelandok itu. Dan pelandok itu pun berjalan pula daripada tempat. Adalah kira-kira lima anam hari antaranya, maka berjumpa pula dengan harimau itu. Maka kata harimau itu, "Sa-hari ini baharulah sampai hukum kamu,

Salam di Rimba." Maka jawab pelandok, "Apa boleh buat? Tetapi aku hendak berpesan sedikit." Maka jawab harimau, "Apa kamu hendak pesan itu?" Maka jawab pelandok, "Jikalau Ka Sang Harimau hendak makan aku, hendaklah di-telan sahaja, jangan di-kunyah. Apabila di-kunyah aku hidop. Apabila di-telan aku mati. Dan-lagi hendak di-dahulukan kepala. Apabila di-dahulukan ekor tentu aku hidop. Apabila di-dahulukan kepala tentu aku mati." Maka kata harimau. "Baiklah." Kemudian di-telanlah dan di-dahulukan kepala pelandok itu. Maka apabila sudah di-telan luluh pelandok ini keluar kepalanya sa-kelat tersembor di-lombang burit harimau ini. Maka baharulah kuat hati harimau ini.

Kemudian ini harimau berjalanlah ia hendak mencari makannya, dan berjumpa dengan sa-ekor babi. Maka ini harimau pun mengendap, mengendap-lah ia. Maka tahu oleh pelandok ini harimau mengendap babi. Maka kata pelandok "Ho, babi, babi, pergilah angkau lari. Ini harimau hendak menerkam angkau." Kemudian di-dengar babi demikian itu bunyinya, maka ia pun larilah. Maka kata harimau, "Ini punggung chelaka ini, berbunyi pula sa-hari-hari. Tiada pernah demikian itu pula." Maka di-chari satu tunggul di-gunyah-gunyahnya akan punggungnya itu, lalu luka berdarah. Maka sa-lama ini harimau menelan pelandok belum pernah ia mendapat sedikit makan, dan terlalu laparnya, dengan berapa hari sudah tiada dapat makan. Maka berjalanlah harimau ini dengan kalaparannya, pergi mendapatkan orang tengah menebas ladang. Maka mengendap, endaplah ia hendak menangkap orang itu tengah menebas ladang. Maka di-katahui oleh pelandok ini akan harimau ini hendak menangkap orang tengah menebas itu Maka kata pelandok "Ho orang tengah menebas, pergilah, angkau lari, ini harimau hendak menangkap angkau." Serta di-dengar oleh orang itu suara yang demikian itu, maka ia pun larilah. Maka ini harimau terlalulah ia hairan akan punggungnya berchakap itu, serta sangat marahnya akan punggungnya itu, lalu ia sental-sental-kan punggungnya itu kepada segala kayu dengan berdarah-darah. Maka dengan kalamaannya ini punggung harimau berulat-ulatlah dengan berapa ulat amat banyak. Dan harimau ini pun lamanya sudah tiada dapat makan lagi maka tiadalah lalu ia berjalan lagi lalu ialah mati-mati.

Maka ini pelandok pun sangatlah laparlah dengan berapa lama tiada berjumpa makanan dengan sangat dahaga. Maka keluarilah lalu berjalan ka-sana ka-sini tiada dapat makan, dan minum. Maka pergilah ia ka-tèpi sungai lalu minum, maka terpandang akan pemakanannya. Kemudian termenong ia sakéjap fikir ia, "Apalah hal aku hendak menyëberang tiada lalu kerana badan aku sangat lëtihnya." Didalam hal itu dapat ia akal sèdikit, "Baik aku panggil kakak Sang Garagi, titah tuanku raja Suleyman mënnyurohkan timbul, aku di-titahkan mëmbilangkannya, berapa banyak yang ada di-sungai ini." Kemudian, maka di-timbul buaya sèkalian yang ada di-dalam sungai itu. Maka kata pelandok, "Kakak Sang Garagi bërsusunlah kepala bëtul-bëtul, supaya sënang aku mëmbilangkannya." Kemudian bërsusunlah buaya dëri tèpi sëbërang disini hingga sampai ditèpi sëbërang sana. Kemudian mëlompatlah pelandok ini ka-atas kepala buaya itu, sërta mëbilangkan katanya, "Satu, dua, tiga, empat, lima, anam, tujuh, lapan, sëmëbilan, sapuloh." Dëmikian hingga sampai sëbërang. Maka apabila tiba ia ka-sëbërang mëlompatlah ia ka-darat sërta katanya, "Hei akal aku sahaja aku hendak menyëberang tiada-lah lalu, aku katakau titah raja Suleyman." Kemudian ia pun makanlah. Maka kata buaya, "Baiklah angkau tiada turun minum, aku tangkap juga, baharu puas hati aku." Maka dengan berapa lamanya ini, pelandok dengan berjalan mënchari makan kapada satu hari sangatlah ia dahaga hendak minum. Kemudian turunlah ia ka-tèpi sungai lalu ia minum. Kemudian datang buaya tangkap ini pelandok, maka kata pelandok, "Pada fikiran Kakak Sang Garagi tangan akukah angkau tangkap itu? Bukankah ranting kayu yang angkau tangkap?" Maka fikiran buaya, "Barangkali juga, kerana tiada bërasa daging hanyalah sèpërti rasa ranting kayu." Maka didalam hal, maka di-lëpaskan oleh buaya ini pelandok, jadi mëlompatlah ia ka-darat sërta kata pelandok, "Hei akal aku sahaja, tangan bëtul angkau tangkap aku katakau ranting kayu."

Kemudian pelandok ini berjalan pula ia ka-tèpi laut pada bagan orang mënjermal. Maka dëkat pula ia dengan bagan itu, maka di-dëngar-nya orang, orang bagan itu gëmpar akan habis hilang ikannya, di-makan binatang tiap-tiap hari bagitu. Maka fikir pelandok, ini apa pula yang mëmakan ikan ini orang. Maka

satu hari orang pun sudah habis pergi ka-laut datang ia kabawah rumah bagan itu, dudok ia mēngēndap, sa-buntar datang nenek gērgasi ka-rumah bagan itu, mēmakan sēgala ikan, ikan orang sēma-sēma didalam bagan itu. Maka fikir pēlandok, "Rupa gērgasi chēlaka ini yang mēmakan ikan orang ini." Maka katanya, "Baik ēsok boleh aku bēri ubat kapadanya." Kēmudian balik, balikkah orang, orang bagan itu, dēri laut di-tengoknya ikannya sudah habis juga. Maka kata orang, "Siapa juga yang mēmakan ikan aku ini? Jika aku tahu tēntu aku bunoh akan dia." Kēmudian ēsok hari pergi pula orang itu ka-laut, maka ini pēlandok datanglah ia lalu naik bagan itu, dan di-charinya rotan di-pērbuatnya satu simpai. Maka tēngah ia mēmpērbuat simpai itu, datanglah nenek gērgasi hēndak mēmakan itu ikan, bērjumpa pula dēngan pēlandok tēngah mēmbuat simpai itu. Maka kata nenek gērgasi itu, "Hei Salam di Rimba apa angkau buat itu?" Maka jawab pēlandok, "Sahya ini nenek, tēngah bēramalkan almu yang di-ajerkan oleh guru sahya dahulu." Maka kata gērgasi itu, "Apa almu Salam di Rimba yang di-amalkan itu?" Maka jawab pēlandok, "Dua pērkarah sahaja: yang pērtama mēndatangkan bisa genih sahya ini, ka-duanya ubat lengoh sēgala sēndi tulang-tulang." Kēmudian kata pēlandok, "Nenek sahaya hēndak tidor sa-kējap, tētapi jāngan sahaya nenek usik-usik." Maka jawab gērgasi "Baik." "Maka tanda sahya tidor chelek mata sahya." "Dan tanda sahya jika, pējam mata sahya." Maka pēlandok pun mērēbahkan diriunya sērta dēngan pējam matanya. Maka fikir gērgasi, "Salam di Rimba, jika lagi sabuntar chelek matanya." Maka di-tēngok gērgasi matanya chelek itu, fikiran-nya ini pēlandok sudah tidor. Maka di-rasa oleh nenek gērgasi gēnihnya itu katanya, "Inilah rupanya yang bisa sangat! Tiada patut dēngan bēsarnya." Habis ini pēlandok pun bangkit dēripada tidornya. Maka kata gērgasi, "Hei Salam di Rimba aku pula hēndak tidor." Maka tidorlah nenek ini dēngan sa-bēnar, bēnarnya. Maka di-ambil pēlandok bara api, di-bubohnya di-atas tangan gērgasi. Maka ia dudok jauh-jauh. Kēmudian mēnglu-porlah gērgasi itu kahangatannya dēngan tangannya. Maka pura-pura tērkējutlah pēlandok ini kata, "Apa kēna nenek mēnglu-por sahaja? apa sēbabnya?" Maka kata nenek, "Tērlalu hangat tangan aku ini, hingga tērkējutlah aku dēripada tidor." Maka kata pēlandok, "Barangkali ada nenek usik gēnih sahya,

waktu sahya tēngah tidor tadi," "Maka jawab nenek, "Bētul ada aku usik sēdikit." Maka kata pēlandok, "Itulah rasa bisa gēnih sahya itu, maka sahya khabarkan pada nenek jangan di-usik, nenek usek jugā; jadi, mēnanggong badan nenek." Maka ini nenek gērgasi bērasalah takut didalam hatinya akan Salam di Rimba kērana ia orang yang banyak almunya. Maka ini pēlandok mau buat simpai. Kēmudian kata nenek gērgasi, "Apa Salam di Rimba buat itu?" Maka jawab Salam di Rimba, "Sahya hēndak buat ubat pēnyakit yang kēna didalam sēndi dan tulang dan lēngoh lumpoh sēkalian badan." Fikir nenek bētul juga kērana ia orang yang banyak almu. Maka kata nenek, "Salam di Rimba aku ini didalam kēna penyakit itu, boleh Salam di Rimba kēnakan ubat itu kapada aku?" Maka jawab Salam di Rimba, "Jika nenek minta tolong boleh chuchu tolong." Maka kata nenek, "Kēnakanlah." Maka lalu di-kēnakan pēlandok itu simpai kapada kadua lutut dan kadua siku nenek itu, di-pukol kētat-kētat. Kēmudian kata pēlandok, "Apa khabar nenek? Choba gērak-gērak. Lalukah atau tidak." Maka jawab nenek, "Tiada sa-kali-kali lalu aku bērgērak sēdikit juapun." Maka kata pēlandok, "Nantilah sēdikit lagi, sēkalian pēnyakit nenek sēmuanya habis hilang nanti sahya pērgi chari daun kayu pērambas didalam hutan dan ayer buku kayu." Maka kata nenek, "Pērgilah lēkas-lēkas. Jikalau lambat nanti tuan rumah ini tiba pula. Maka pēlandok pērgilah ia masuk hutan, tiada balik lagi. Maka sa-buntar juga tiba orang dēri laut, di-lihatnya tērjerabun sahaja gērgasi di-atas rumahnya sērta sudah kēna simpai sēndinya. Maka kata orang itu, "Inilah yang mēmakan ikan aku salama ini." Maka ia pukol dan tikamlah lalu mati gērgasi ini.

Maka pēlandok pun bērjalanlah ia pērgi mēnchari makanannya ka-hulu dan ka-hilir. Kēmudian tiba bērjumpa pula ia dēngan orang tēngah bērbahan sampan. Maka kata pēlandok, "Ini olah-olah jong, olah-olah ngin."* Maka di-amat-amati orang itu pērkataan pēlandok. Maka hērti-lah orang itu, pērkataan pēlandok mēnjejih-jejih dia, dan di-ambilnya sa-keping tatal

* "Ini olah-olah jong, olah-olah ngin." No good explantion can be had of these words, the best translation seems to be "Perhaps, perhaps not." The phrase is said to be unintelligible except to the best educated Perak Malays.

di-lotarkannya pelandok itu, kena pada punggungnya lalu patah. Kemudian ini pelandok pun balik ia mendapatkan perempuan-nya. Maka serta sampai kapada perempuan-nya, katanya, "Hui, hui, sa-kali ini barangkali kita berchêrailah." Maka jawab perempuan-nya, "Apa sebab mika berkata begitu?" Maka kata pelandok jantan ini, "Teman sudah kena lempar oleh orang berbahan dengan tatalnya. Inilah tatalnya lekat pada punggung teman ini." Kemudian adalah antara sepuluh hari pelandok jantan pun lalu mati dan perempuan tinggal didalam ia bunting. Maka dengan katurunan itu lah juga sampai sekarang tiap, tiap sa-ekor pelandok adalah tatal pada punggungnya itu. Tamat.